

GROUND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

tions can mean that chemicals that pose a potentially serious problem in some conditions may be used safely in other situations.

The variability in hydrogeology and soil conditions in Florida has resulted in significant regional differences in ground water contamination from aldicarb. In the northwest potato-growing area in Florida, very little aldicarb has been detected despite shallow ground water and a long history of aldicarb use. However, subsurface drainage to surface water in this area does contain substantial aldicarb concentrations. It is believed that the hydrogeology and alkaline conditions in this region cause rapid degradation of aldicarb. In contrast, in the central citrus-growing region aldicarb has been detected in a number of areas. In the central region, very sandy soils, acidic soil conditions, low soil organic content, and shallow water tables promote aldicarb's persistence and its ability to reach ground water (Holden, 1985).

In order to examine the interaction between environmental fate characteristics of pesticides and soil conditions, mathematical models have been developed that attempt to predict the movement of a pesticide as a function of its chemical characteristics and usage patterns and as a function of local soil and climatic conditions (Carsel et al., 1985; Jury et al., 1983). CDF plans to use such models to identify which pesticides should be prohibited in which areas within the state.

Registration of Pesticides and Data Gaps

To be sold as a pesticide, a material must be granted a "registration" by the EPA. Most states also have their own state boards that review the data and decide whether to grant a registration for the state. Local officials may also have authority to prevent registration in a certain area because they believe that the material poses a threat to ground water.

Aldicarb, for example, is registered for use in New York and California, but is prohibited from use in one county in California and on Long Island.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires data to be submitted by the manufacturer to determine if the pesticide meets health and safety standards. Federal law prohibits EPA from registering a pesticide unless the applicant submits data to prove the product will not cause "unreasonable adverse effects on man and the environment." (Reference U.S. Code, Section 136a(c)(5)(D).) Unfortunately, the "adverse effects" standard was not enforced until 1972. Because of slow progress in reviewing and updating the registrations of older pesticides, many maintain federal registration without meeting existing data requirements or satisfying the toxicological and environmental standards that newer products must meet in order to gain registrations.

The Federal Environmental Pesticides Control Act of 1972 (an amend